

Dear Minister,

We the undersigned support the widespread call for a ban on greyhound racing.

We are shocked and deeply saddened that every year, more than one hundred dogs still die on British tracks and that hundreds, perhaps thousands, more are bred, discarded, and remain unaccounted for.

The conditions in which racing dogs are forced to live are truly distressing. They are often kept in barren pens with little or no interaction or stimulation. Investigations have uncovered horrific cruelty, including dogs being neglected, malnourished, drugged, and left to die and rot away besides their living kennel mates. Don't dogs deserve better from us?

This is an industry in decline - the number of tracks, the number of spectators, and public support are all waning. Given that greyhound racing is legal in just five other countries (excluding UK nations), we urge you to follow the recent lead of New Zealand and Wales and end this country's involvement in greyhound racing.

For a more compassionate world,

Alan Cumming, actor, presenter

Alison Steadman, actress

Chris Packham, naturalist, television presenter

David Olusoga, historian, presenter

Diane Morgan, actress, comedian

Evanna Lynch, actress, author

Georgia Meacham, actress

Heather Mills, athlete, entrepreneur

Joanna Lumley, actress

John Bishop, comedian

Michael Morpurgo, author

Miranda Richardson, actress

Carol Royle, actress

Olivia Bowen, media personality

Peter Egan, actor

Susie Dent, lexicographer, media personality

Will Young, singer

